

1996 FATAL VICTIMS UNDER FOUR YEARS OF AGE

From January through December 1996 there was a total of 35 children under four years of age killed in traffic collisions. In 17 of the deaths, no safety seat was used and/or present; 5 were in improperly used safety seats; and only 10 were in safety seats that were correctly used. (In the other 3 fatalities, safety seats were not required or their use was unknown.)

In the collision summaries, this symbol (☆) after the date indicates that the victim was Hispanic or had an Hispanic surname. 48.5 percent of the fatal victims (17) were in this category.

VICTIMS BY YEAR

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>KILLED</u>	<u>INJURED</u>
1996	35	3,626
1995	59	3,817
1994	56	4,127
1993	48	4,357
1992	59	4,705
1991	70	4,793
1990	64	5,109
1989	43	5,102
1988	60	4,855
1987	66	4,792
1986	50	4,212
1985	53	4,050
1984	57	4,177
1983	60	4,273
1982	46	4,679
1981	58	4,716
1980	47	4,652

27360 CITATIONS (CHP ONLY)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1996	15,516
1995	15,359
1994	16,060
1993	18,797
1992	21,578
1991	24,161
1990	21,476
1989	18,420
1988	15,196
1987	15,473
1986	12,620
1985	14,593
1984	11,879
1983	6,315*

*(1983 CITES STARTED 4/1/83)

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[The following is the format for the information contained in these reports.]

DATE TIME/CITY/COUNTY/. VICTIM. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT.
RESTRAINT USE

FEBRUARY

- 29☆ 1530/Uninc./Madera. **1-YR-OLD MALE**. Fatigued driver allowed his vehicle to drift across the center line and into the path of an oncoming vehicle. Child was at point of massive impact.
SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT

MARCH

- 02☆ 1120/Uninc./San Diego. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE**. Driver (mother) for unknown reasons allowed her vehicle to drift off the roadway, run down an embankment and strike a utility pole. Child was seated at point of impact.
SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT
- 12 1018/Fontana/San Bernardino. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE**. Driver (father) allowed his vehicle to drift across the center line and strike a second vehicle head-on. The child was seated in a child safety seat which was not restrained by a safety belt.
SAFETY SEAT/IMPROPER USE

APRIL

- 05 0855/Lancaster/Los Angeles. **1-YR-OLD MALE**. Driver (mother) proceeded into an intersection against a red light and struck a vehicle which was in the intersection legally. The child (in the left, rear seating position) suffered fatal head injuries although the report indicates he was in a properly used safety seat.
SAFETY SEAT

APRIL (Continued)

- 05 1835/Los Angeles/Los Angeles. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** For unknown reasons an elderly driver (75) collided with the rear of a vehicle stopped for a traffic light. The impact pushed the second vehicle into two other vehicles. The child (in the right, rear seating position of the second vehicle) suffered fatal head injuries although the report indicates he was in a properly used safety seat.

SAFETY SEAT

- 12☆ 0815/Los Angeles/Los Angeles. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (mother) made a left turn at an intersection. Her car crossed into the path of an oncoming vehicle and was struck broadside. The child was riding in a child carrier marked "do not use as a child safety seat".

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

- 27☆ 0630.Uninc./Imperial. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (father) allowed his vehicle to drift over the center line and into the path of an oncoming motorhome. The head on collision resulted in fatal injuries to all five passengers in the passenger car including the child.

NO SAFETY SEAT

MAY

- 01 1840/Oakland/Alameda. **2-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver of first vehicle failed to stop at a stop sign and hit second vehicle. Force of impact caused the second vehicle to collide with a utility pole. Child was ejected from the vehicle.

NO SAFETY SEAT

- 03☆ 1454/Fresno/Fresno. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (father) failed to stop for the red traffic signal and his vehicle was struck broadside. Child was seated in right front and suffered massive head injuries.

SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT

- 09☆ 0555/Uninc./Monterey. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (mother) fell asleep and allowed her vehicle to drift to the right and into the rear of a semi truck trailer which was stopped on the shoulder of the highway. Child was seated in right front and suffered massive head injuries.

SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT

MAY (Continued)

- 11 1400/Uninc./Kern. **3-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (mother) was attempting to hand a pillow to her daughter in the rear of the vehicle. While doing this, the driver allowed the vehicle to drift onto the shoulder of the roadway. When she overcorrected, she lost control of the vehicle and it overturned, ejecting the unrestrained child.

NO SAFETY SEAT

- 12☆ 1150/Uninc./Tehama. **2-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (mother) on a freeway, observed smoke partially obscuring the roadway ahead and slowed her vehicle to five mph. The driver of a large pickup truck pulling a horse trailer failed to accurately judge the difference in speed between the two vehicles and struck the rear of the first vehicle at approximately 50 mph. Child was seated in the center position of the rear seat.

SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT

- 12☆ 1850/San Clemente/Orange. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (father) was operating a vehicle with no operational safety belts. Driver was distracted by a conversation with his wife and when he returned his attention to the road ahead, a disabled vehicle was stopped immediately in front of him. The unrestrained child was seated between the two front seat passengers.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

JULY

- 13 2208/Uninc./Sacramento. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Mother was riding in the center rear seat of the vehicle. Her daughter was riding on the lap of the passenger in the left rear seat. All parties had been at a child's birthday party and all had been drinking. The driver, who was DUI, lost control of the vehicle which left the roadway and overturned.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

- 13 2233/Uninc./Sacramento. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver failed to stop for a red light and struck a second vehicle. Child was seated in the left rear seat of the first vehicle on her mother's lap. The same adult safety belt was fastened around the mid-section of the mother and child. . Upon impact, both passengers were forced forward with the child absorbing the blunt force to her mid-section. This force caused fatal internal injuries. The mother suffered minor injuries.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

AUGUST

- 03 0458/Uninc./San Bernardino. **2-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (father) heard a loud noise, panicked, and made an unsafe turning movement which caused his vehicle to leave the roadway and overturn. The child, seated in the center of the rear seat, was ejected.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

- 04 1645/Uninc./San Bernardino. **3-YR-OLD FEMALE.** A DUI driver crossed over the center line and struck the left side of an oncoming vehicle. The child, a passenger in the second vehicle, was seated in the left rear position.

SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT

- 18☆ 1715/Uninc./Riverside. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (father) was operating his vehicle when a second vehicle approached from the rear at a high rate of speed and struck the first vehicle. The impact caused the first vehicle to leave the roadway and overturn ejecting the child. An unused child safety seat was found in the vehicle.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

- 22☆ 2145/Uninc./Los Angeles. **2-YR-OLD AND 3-YR-OLD MALES.** The driver of a full-sized pickup truck was driving at a high rate of speed (80-90 mph) and entered an intersection against a red light. The truck sideswiped one vehicle and then rear-ended a second vehicle. The larger vehicle entered the passenger compartment of the second vehicle, inflicting fatal injuries to all six occupants including the two children. Safety seat usage and seating positions are unknown.

UNKNOWN

SEPTEMBER

- 05 0600/Uninc./Los Angeles. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (mother) was operating her vehicle at a high rate of speed (80 mph) in a 45 mph zone. She was also under the influence of a prescription tranquilizer. For unknown reasons she allowed the vehicle to drift across and off the roadway, overturning. Child was seated, unbuckled, in a forward facing child safety seat in the right front position and was ejected from the vehicle.

IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE

SEPTEMBER (Continued)

- 07 ☆ 2200/Oxnard/Ventura. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** DUI driver allowed his vehicle to drive across the center line and strike an oncoming vehicle head on. The unrestrained child was riding in the left rear seating position.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

- 09 0940/San Leandro/Alameda. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (mother) was looking at her children in the rear seat and inadvertently allowed her vehicle to enter an intersection against a red light. Her vehicle was struck broadside by a second vehicle. The impact caused the first vehicle to roll on its left side and ejected the child riding in the left rear seating position. The child was riding in a properly attached child safety seat but the shoulder straps of the seat were not fastened.

SAFETY SEAT/IMPROPER USE

- 29 ☆ 2053/Uninc./Monterey. **2-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (mother) allowed her vehicle to drift onto the shoulder of the roadway. She then overcorrected, lost control, and crossed over the center line, striking an oncoming vehicle. The impact caused her vehicle to roll on its right side and then its top. The child was sitting in the right rear seating position.

SAFETY SEAT

OCTOBER

- 02 ☆ 1435/Baldwin Park/Los Angeles. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** DUI (0.21 percent) driver made a left turn in front of oncoming traffic and his vehicle was hit broadside. Child was seated on the lap of his mother in the right, rear position.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

- 22 1145/Irvine/Orange. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver of a full-size pickup truck entered an intersection against a red light and struck the second vehicle broadside on the left side. Child was seated in the left, rear position of the second vehicle.

SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT

OCTOBER (Continued)

- 30 2250/Uninc./Riverside. **3-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (grandmother) fell asleep and allowed her vehicle to drift onto the shoulder of the roadway. She then overcorrected and lost control of her vehicle which rolled over. The collision ejected her unrestrained daughter and grandson. They both sustained fatal injuries. The driver wore a lap/shoulder safety belt and sustained only minor injuries.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

NOVEMBER

- 05☆ 0544/Uninc./San Joaquin. **3-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Sleepy driver (mother) lost control of her vehicle which crossed over the center line and struck a second vehicle head on. Child was seated in the right, front position and was ejected. Safety seat was present but child was riding without being strapped into the seat.
SAFETY SEAT/IMPROPER USE
- 15 1617/Sacramento/Sacramento. **2-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (mother) was distracted and lost control of her vehicle. Vehicle left the roadway and struck a utility pole. Child was in the right front seating position.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 20 2100/Uninc./Contra Costa. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (father) attempted an unsafe lane change, lost control and the vehicle left the roadway and overturned. Both his wife and son were ejected and suffered fatal injuries. Child was seated in the right, rear position.
SAFETY SEAT/IMPROPER USE
- 30☆ 2210/Los Angeles/Los Angeles. **3-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver was operating his vehicle at a high rate of speed when he lost control and struck a tree. Five vehicle occupants were killed including the child and his mother.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

DECEMBER

- 02☆ 0953/Uninc./Kern. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (mother) for unknown reasons allowed her vehicle to cross the center line and strike an oncoming vehicle head on. Child was in the right, front position.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

DECEMBER (Continued)

- 04 1852/Antioch/Contra Costa. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE**. Driver (father) entered an intersection against a red light and his vehicle was struck by a second vehicle. The impact ejected the unrestrained child.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 13☆ 1908/Uninc./Fresno. **3-YR-OLD MALE**. Driver failed to stop at a stop sign and struck second vehicle in intersection. Child was an unrestrained passenger in second vehicle.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 15 1924/Clovis/Fresno. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE**. Child was a passenger on a trailer that was being towed for a neighborhood caroling "hay ride". She fell off the trailer was crushed by the trailer tires.
NO SAFETY SEAT REQUIRED